

CANADA.

PLAN OF THE POEM.

THE view from Cape Diamond described—The animal and vegetable productions of the Country—The Indians with some conjectures upon their origin and former state—The colonization of Canada by the French Missionaries—Its conquest by the British in 1759—The Death of Wolfe—The repulse of the American army under Montgomery—Reflections upon Democracy—and the usual evils of a Revolution—Illustrated by France.—The Contrast presented in the innocent manners of the Canadians—Their Civil and Religious liberties—Their manners and customs described, as varying according to the seasons—Upper Canada introduced—Lakes—Falls of Niagara—Reflections upon Great Britain and her Colonies—Address to the St. Lawrence—its rivers—towns and villages—Panegyric upon Quebec—Its General Hospital—The Nuns—their amusements &c. The Poem concludes with a tribute of praise to the females of the Province.

HOW steep th' ascent! how fearful from the brow
Projecting thus, to mark the gulf below!
Ev'n now the faltering strand appears to sink—
My feet recoil with horror from the brink—
One startling word might hurl the fleeting breath, 5
Wafted in midway air, to realms of Death;
One more—one sudden glance—half snatch'd—would seem
Inevitable fate!—'Tis Fancy's dream—
And 'tis but for a moment! Reason's laws
Return, collected, from the transient pause; 10
A thousand charms the raptur'd soul employ,
And fear itself is overwhelm'd in joy.

The glittering spire—the rampart's massy tower,
The cannon frowning on opposing power;
The tide-resisting wharf—the busy shore— 15
The bulky vessel—and the crowded store— Half-

NOTE.

Ver. 1. "He who looks from a Precipice—finds himself assailed by one dreadful idea of irresistible destruction—but this overwhelming reflection is dissipated from the moment the faculties become collected—and the mind can diffuse it's attention to minute objects.—See Johnson's remarks on "Shakespeare's Lear."